CRITERIA FOR RESOURCE-SHARING GRANTS

For the purpose of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program in California, "library resource-sharing grants" are defined as funds awarded to libraries* for planning and/or implementation of projects whose primary goal is to enable and facilitate resource-sharing among California libraries of all types: academic, public, school, and special; either publicly-funded and privately-funded. Funds may position a library to participate in multitype library resource-sharing, enable a library to share resources beyond its own clientele, or facilitate a cooperative, collaborative initiative by a group of multitype libraries. Libraries must share resources with other California libraries in some way to qualify for a resource-sharing grant. The California multitype library plan ("The Library of California," as defined in 1996 and as recently signed into law) outlines eligible uses for resource-sharing grants.

Grant applications are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria (not in priority order):

1.   *Does the project contribute to the development or implementation of the California library network plan ("The Library of California")?*

    Examples of what might be achieved: pilots or demonstrations of how a network program could function; studies; projects that enable a library to participate in resource-sharing activities through retrospective conversion or original cataloging, implementation of Z39.50 protocols, etc.; modeling of a cooperative approach to library services in a given area or region; efforts that lay the groundwork for future multitype cooperation.

2.   *Will the library resources made available through this project benefit Californians beyond the primary clientele of the applicant library?*

    Examples of potential benefits: retroconversion/cataloging of items in areas of interlibrary loan need; preservation of fragile items with duplicate copies placed in multiple locales; digitization of unique materials with widespread relevance and informational value; documented need, interest, and demand for the project from beyond the applicant jurisdiction.

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* For the purposes of this program, a library is defined as one that meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the Library of California program, and thus has: 1) a written, explicit mission statement and service objectives; 2) a fixed location; 3) established hours of service; 4) an organized collection of information and materials accessible for use by its designated clientele; 5) designated on-site paid staff for library services, with at least one staff person possessing a Master's degree in library or information science or a California library media teacher credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing; and 6) an established funding base. Waivers of these requirements may be approved on request by the State Library.

3.   *In cooperative projects, are the contributions, commitments, and potential benefits equitable for all participants?*

4.   *Does the project enhance local library service rather than provide what should be done with local funds?*

5.   *It the project cost-effective?*

        Examples of ways to analyze costs: cost per person served; cost per item made accessible; alternative methods of meeting project goals and their costs.

6.   *Is the project feasible and will it work, i.e., is it reasonable to assume the project will achieve its stated goals and objectives?*

        Examples of elements considered: pre-planning; realistic timeline; adequate budget; staff/consultant expertise; involvement of participants and/or end users in project development and implementation.

7.   *Is there local commitment and support to assure project continuation at the close of the grant-funded period?*

        Examples of commitment: matching funds; in-kind contributions; documented buy-in or long-term commitment from local funding sources; involvement of other local institutions or agencies.

8.   *Will the project evaluation assist California library network planning and implementation?*

        Examples of assistance: service use patterns and trends; costing formulas and elements; estimated vs. actual use; user satisfaction; user benefits; service use and cost distinctions by type of library.

IN ADDITION, depending upon the type of project, each project application may also be evaluated on one or both of these criteria:

9.   For LOCAL SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS: *How will the resource-sharing project improve direct library services to the library's primary clientele?*

10.   For TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS: *Is the proposed technology the most appropriate means of achieving the project goal(s)?*

It is noted that lower priority will be given to cooperative projects primarily involving the same type of library (academic, public, school, or special), and to projects that are more of an ongoing, operational local responsibility.

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